



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: Second Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the First Tuesday of each month.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit
<http://www.rars.org/public-service.php>

frequently for our 2018
ham public service
schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Topic: RFI tracking and location.

By Dave Wood, W4EJ

Date: January 9, 2018

Time: Meeting at 7:30PM

Informal gathering and refreshments from 7 - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church. 2011 Ridge Rd., Raleigh

New HAM / Elmer meeting, 6:00 p.m. before member meeting

Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW, Elmer Coordinator

[Click here for more information.](#)

President's Message

January 2018

Welcome to 2018! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is looking forward to an exciting new year.

I begin my first Exciter article as RARS president by communicating my heart-felt thanks to each member of RARS for extending to me the opportunity to serve in this way. I am truly humbled and grateful. I wish to extend special thanks and appreciation to Dennis Keith NC4DK who served our club so well as president over the past two years. I also thank all who have served in the past and those who will be serving with me in 2018. RARS is an exciting club, doing great things, because we have outstanding members.

The officers and directors of RARS seek to be as transpar-

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RARS Officers

PRESIDENT

Carl Davis
W8WZ
773.949.5243
w8wz@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Lewis
N4TL
N4TL2@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Tara Goodwin
W4TSW
919.616.0211
taraskirby@gmail.com

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
KE4PAX@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).

Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

For Your Information

RARS General Meeting

Date: **Second** Tuesday of each month

Location: Ridge Road Baptist Church 2011
Ridge Road Raleigh, NC, 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 p.m. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 p.m.

RARS Monthly Dinner

All members and guests are welcome to the monthly (first Tuesday) RARS Supper, 6:30PM, at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 6129 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh. Informal and Dutch, just bring your appetite and best rag to chew. 73, Chuck, K4HF

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 and 444.525

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

There is a net Listing on the RARS website click here. <http://www.rars.org/nets.php>

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing in February, May, August and November at 5:30PM, prior to RARS membership meetings at Ridge Road Baptist Church; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARS-Fest in November; and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, your original and a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any valid CSCEs that prove passing elements beyond that of your current license. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

December 2017 RARS Net Report Summary

Checkins: 483

Traffic Brought/Passed: 6/6

Minutes: 751

Sessions: 31

Virginia Enzor NC4VA

RARS Net Manager

Future Hamfests

A full list of Hamfests can be found at the [ARRL website](#).

02/03/2018 | [Virginia State Convention \(Frostfest\)](#)

Location: Richmond, VA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Richmond Amateur
Telecommunications Society

Website: <http://frostfest.com>

03/31/2018 | [North Carolina State Convention \(Raleigh Hamfest\)](#)

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://rarsfest.org>

President's Message continued

ent and responsive to the needs of our fellow members as possible. All of us have contact information listed on the RARS webpage and frequently participate in RARS events. If you have any ideas for RARS please reach out to us with them at any time. Each RARS member is invited to attend the monthly Board Meeting so please come join us. We often adjourn to Applebees for supper after the meeting is over, so it is an opportunity for food and fellowship as well. Your ideas are valued regardless of whether you were licensed last week or served as an Elmer to Hiram Piercy Maxim, so don't be shy.

2018 will be full of fun opportunities for RARS members. I have lived in many different places and travel around the country each month in my professional work. I can honestly say I have not seen any place with as vibrant a ham community as we have here in Raleigh for at least 20 years. We are very fortunate, so as you make your list of "New Year's Resolutions" consider some of the following ideas to take advantage of the offerings our great amateur radio community provides:

- Check into a RARS 2 meter net at least once a week
- Attend a RARS dinner
- Come out to a RARS meeting or Board meeting and have supper with fellow hams afterwards.
- Participate in the North Carolina QSO Party
- Operate at Field Day
- Get Sky Warn training and participate in Sky Warn nets
- Elmer a new ham
- Write an article for the Exciter
- Volunteer to help with RARS FEST
- Upgrade your license (RARS will have classes to help you learn the material required to upgrade throughout the year, so pay attention to the Exciter for details)
- If you are already an Extra Class Operator, contact Joe and Liz White about joining the RARS VE Team to help others get licensed.
- Volunteer for one of our Public Service opportunities in 2018
- Learn and try an operating mode that you have not used before (CW, AM, Packet, one of the new digital modes)
- Take the RARS traffic handling course from Joe W4TTO and volunteer with the National Traffic System
- Put up an antenna and get on the air. If you need help with this ask fellow RARS members for assistance and you will find help.

President's Message continued

- Most of all: enjoy ham radio in the way that you choose. This is a hobby, so if you aren't having fun with it then you aren't doing it right. And, if you are having fun with it then you are doing it right – however that looks for you.

In RARS you will find hams who are active in just about every aspect of this “hobby of hobbies” that we call amateur radio. So, get active on the VHF nets and come to RARS meetings to learn from your fellow members about different ways you can enjoy the hobby and share with them the ways you find value on the airwaves. RARS works so well because we all help each other.

Happy New Year es 73,

Carl W8WZ

December Door Prize winners



From Left to right, Dick (KD4ISC), Betty (KE4NGM), Marty (W4MY), Robert (W4MBD), Ken (KI4OTO), Greg (KE4PAX), Greg, (WD4GES), Virginia (NC4VA), Glen (WA2CYM), Michael (KN4CBZ),

RARS January Birthdays

Bob	N4GEB	01/01
Grady	AJ4YA	01/01
Ken	KK4YAF	01/01
Ronnie	KN4GYV	01/01
Kevin	KN4AAG	01/02
Robert	KN4BIA	01/02
Howard	KI4GNB	01/03
Barry	KK4NUN	01/03
Jerry	KE4TTS	01/04
John	WB4DDK	01/04
Chuck	K4HF	01/04
Patrick	KM4VMB	01/05
Joe	KM4WRQ	01/06
John	N4YRD	01/08
John	N1GMV	01/08
Jim	N4CAE	01/09
Beth	KF4QMR	01/09
Ed	KN4CUU	01/09
Richard	N1FUA	01/09
Paul	KE4TMN	01/10
Dan	WY3O	01/11
Paul	AA4XX	01/14
Bill	KI4BKF	01/15
Marko	KM4ZBT	01/16
Marc	W4MPS	01/19
Dick	KM4YLH	01/19
Dave	N4CVV	01/19
Ashby	KB5ZIH	01/20
Tom	KG4EDY	01/21
Jim	KJ4BYN	01/22
Ken	AC4RD	01/23
Scott	KJ4FSV	01/23

RARS January Birthdays

Michael	KN4CBZ	01/24
Jim	KM4DCJ	01/25
Amara	KF6TEJ	01/27
Henry	AE4MX	01/27
Alan	AB4OZ	01/30
Cyndi	KD4ACW	01/30
Tom	K2UCU	01/31

New RARS Members

Ken Latchum	KE4BRW
Larry Clasey	W4LEC
Steve Christensen	KN4GYT

**RARS has a new website URL
just for the RARSfest**

<http://rarsfest.org>

Thanks to K4HM - Hank

RARS also is on Facebook and Twitter.

<https://www.facebook.com/Raleigh-Amateur-Radio-Society-273341139963/>

<https://twitter.com/hashtag/rarsfest>

<https://twitter.com/search?vertical=default&q=rarsfest&src=typd>

Food for the December RARS pot luck Holiday party



Jan Lewis and Bill Mars AK4BL

December RARS Officers induction



RARS Officers from left to right. All are for One- year term except for President: and Secretary which are two-year terms.

Public Service Director: John Stone K3RHJ

RARS Net Manager: Virginia Enzor NC4VA

At-Large Director: Joanne Mars, AA3N

RARS Food Service Chair: Bill Mars, AK4BL

At-Large Director: Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ

Youth Director: Murray Merner, K4MHM

At-Large Director: Marty Young, W4MY

President: Carl Davis W8WZ

Secretary: Tara Goodwin W4TSW

ARRL Liaison: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

*New HAM / Elmer meeting, 6:00 p.m. before the
member meeting*

Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW, Elmer Coordinator

*The New Hams meeting is held every month before the regular RARS meeting.
We'll try to start by 6pm. We try to address topics in a manner that will be of help
to hams in their first year of operation.*



During the December
meeting, Ken,
KN4GUS, learning
how to solder.



Raspberry Pi
TARP circuit
board

RARS Two Meter FM Nets

TO: All Ham Radio Operators
FROM: Virginia Enzor NC4VA, RARS Net Manager
DATE: December 31, 2017
RE: RARS Net

You are invited to kick off the new year by checking into the RARS Net which meets nightly at 8:00 PM on the 146.64 repeater. It's a great way to cultivate friendships, hear the latest ham news, and get technical advice! Here are your nightly net controls:

Sunday: Mike Murphy WA4BPJ – RARS Amateur Radio News Hour + Ragchew

Monday: Bob Woodson WX4MMM and Bob Brown N4GEB (alternate Mondays) – Ragchew Net

Tuesday: Randy Bittle KE4PNT (2nd Tuesday of the month) and Phillip “PJ” Jones KG4IVD
(all other Tuesdays) – Ragchew Net

Wednesday: Virginia Enzor NC4VA – Ragchew Net

Thursday: Julie Royster KT4JR – Ragchew Net

Friday: Joe Squashic W4TTO – Ragchew Net

Saturday: Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ – Tech and Traders Net + Ragchew

Future RARS Meeting Topics

Titles, topics, and speakers subject to change.

1/9/2018	RFI tracking and location.	Dave Wood, W4EJ
2/13/2018	TBD	TBS
3/13/2018	Awards, RARS Birthday Party (2/12/69) & RARSfest Update	RARSfest chair



Spotlight on RARS Net Controls

Virginia Enzor NC4VA, RARS Net Manager

As Net Manager, I thought it would be fun to get to know more about our RARS Net controls! NCOs were given a questionnaire, and I'll be sharing their answers in this issue and future issues of the Exciter. This month's newsletter will highlight our weekend NCOs.

Spotlight on RARS Net Control Alan Pitegoff

1. Name, callsign & license class

Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ, Extra Class

2. Assigned RARS Net night

Saturday, Tech and Traders Net

3. Year first licensed

I was first licensed in 1962 as a Novice with the callsign WN2CBZ.

4. How did you get into ham radio?

One of my school friends had a Hallicrafters receiver, and we would stay up and listen to the radio at night. That eventually led to both of us getting our licenses.

5. What aspects of the hobby currently interest you?

Electronics and homebrew. I like building things and selling them.

6. Positions in RARS or other organizations

I am an At-Large RARS Director for 2018 and have held this position in previous years.

7. Any special awards? (DXCC, WAS, WAC, IOTA, etc.)

Continued from the previous page

I once received a RARS award for running the Tech and Traders Net since the 1980s!

8. Any special current projects?

I have a ten-year plan to clean out my house of ham radio stuff but I am losing ground!

9. Words of advice for new hams?

None at this time. Tadd (Torborg) does a great job with new hams.



Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ, the voice of the Tech and Traders Net

Spotlight on RARS Net Control Mike Murphy

1. Name, callsign & license class

Mike Murphy WA4BPJ; Extra Class

2. Assigned RARS Net night

Sunday

3. Year originally licensed

1970

4. How did you get into ham radio?

As I was growing up, I had a strong curiosity about science topics and electricity in particular. Through the years, my interests were nurtured with a variety of science experiment kits. One of my favorites was a Heathkit multi project electricity experimenter's board that let one patch together many different circuits. I also enjoyed reading about different fields of science and technology. During one of my library visits, I discovered a copy of the Radio Amateurs Handbook and I was hooked! I was about 13 at the time and living in Germany (Army brat). My interests became focused on radio communications but it wasn't until our family came back to Fort Bragg and I was in my senior year of high school that the opportunity to become a ham presented itself. A couple of my buddies were also interested in ham radio so we studied and got our licenses about the same time.

5. What aspects of the hobby currently interest you?

The technical aspects of the hobby have always been enjoyable. I've built several Heathkits and designed and built my own 50 foot fold over antenna mast while in Fayetteville. Digging inside broken equipment to diagnose and make repairs has been very rewarding. Helping folks interested in the hobby to get their license or upgrade has also been fulfilling so I have enjoyed many years as an instructor for technician, general and extra class students. Another interest has been tower work. The challenge of erecting towers and antennas as well as dismantling them is a niche area of our hobby that I've relished through the years although I don't do much tower work these days. Participating in Field Day each year is perhaps the lone HF operating pleasure for me. Serving as NCO and bringing the RARS news hour to our repeater each Sunday continues to be an enjoyable activity. Finally, ham radio has been a family activity. My wife, Sharon is

KD4ACK, son, Joey, KE4DRJ and daughter Katie, KE4DRL.

6. Positions that you hold in RARS or other organizations

Licensing Class Instructor for over 20 years to the present
Former treasurer
Former Field Day chairman for several years
Former member of the repeater support committee (tower work)

7. Any special project you are currently working on?

I'm in the planning stage for a 630 meter transmitter design for our new band.

8. Words of advice for new hams?

Our hobby is a vast buffet. You won't know what you like until you taste it. Get involved with an active club and participate. Most folks will be happy to share and help.

Antique Radio conference & Cryptologic Symposium

The Carolinas Chapter of the Antique Wireless Association

Sponsors of Antique Radio Charlotte

An annual conference for antique and vintage radio collectors and historians
2018 also includes the Charlotte International Cryptologic Symposium

March 22-24, 2018

<http://cc-awa.club/>

<http://cc-awa.club/forum-speakers>



SKYWARN Recognition Day 2017

Virginia Enzor NC4VA

Central Carolina SKYWARN Emergency Coordinator

On December 2, 2017, you might have heard these words across the bands: “This is WX4NC, Raleigh National Weather Service for SKYWARN Recognition Day, looking for contacts.” That’s because the National Weather Service in Raleigh and Central Carolina SKYWARN participated in the 19th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD). SRD was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service (NWS) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the NWS. During this 24-hour event, amateur radio operators visited the NWS Raleigh office and contacted other radio operators across the world and radio operators at other NWS offices.

What made this year’s SRD event special was that Wake County Emergency Management participated with NWS Raleigh and set up their mobile, 40-foot command post trailer with 52-foot mast, adjacent to the weather service office. In addition to radio stations at the National Weather Service, several radio stations were set up in the command post. This setup provided an opportunity to not only showcase SKYWARN and amateur radio, but the partnership between the National Weather Service and its emergency management partners.

This event also served as an opportunity for testing of amateur radios and antennas and all other forms of backup communications.

The Raleigh NWS/CCS team set a personal best record in terms of total number of contacts!

Here were our results:

Total number of contacts (duplicates not removed): 442

Total number of NWS offices contacted (including the W1AW/WX1AW bonus): 40 (earning us the blizzard certificate)

Total number of states contacted: 38

Total number of countries contacted (excluding the USA): 5, including Cuba, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, and England

Thanks to all who made a contact with us on SKYWARN Recognition Day!

Continued from the previous page



The Raleigh NWS/CCS SRD Team: (L-R 1st row) Virginia Enzor NC4VA CCS EC, Lauren Petro KF7RCU, Randy Stark WN4RSS, Pam Lewis KB4PAM, Kristina Benson (L-R 2nd row) Chris Benson KJ4LKE, Nick Petro WX3H (NWS), Ken Stark W4KJS, Jamie Morrow KK4IVS (NWS), Scott Lewis AB4SL CCS AEC, and Bob Woodson WX4MMM CCS AEC. Pictured separately below Steve Newton KJ4TTU and daughter.



Steve Newton KJ4TTU and daughter.

Tacky Tinsel Tour Net 2017

Virginia Enzor NC4VA

Tacky Tinsel Tour Co-host/Creator

Jingling bells and Christmas spirit abounded as the 2017 Tacky Tinsel Tour kicked off on Wednesday, December 20, at 8:00 PM on the RARS 146.64 repeater. Co-hosted by Courtney Enzor KI4HOS, Virginia Enzor NC4VA, and guest Brandon Stanford, this annual net featured descriptions of some to the best holiday light displays in the Triangle!

After KI4HOS took check-ins, guest co-host and actor Brandon Stanford rendered the traditional reading of Gary Pearce's poem, "A Ham's Night Before Christmas."

Next TTT Correspondent Jack Baker K4WFJ, on site at 1105 Shasta Daisy Drive in Wake Forest, presented his beautiful selection, "Land of the Giants", featuring ginormous snowmen, toy soldiers, Christmas trees, and Santa Claus!



"Land of the Giants"

Entry One

Tacky Tinsel Tour Net 2017 Continued



The house next door to “Land of the Giants” displayed the above sign as their decoration!

Entry Two

TTT Correspondent Bob Chapman NC1X then shared his entry, “Lights on Canoe Brook”, a captivating, intricate, computer-controlled light and music display at 3100 Canoe Brook Parkway in Raleigh. This entry was has its own Facebook page!

Tacky Tinsel Tour Net 2017 Continued



"Lights on Canoe Brook"

Entry Three

The third entry was described by Courtney Enzor KI4HOS at 200 Billingsrath Turn Lane in Cary and entitled "Do Re Mi Singing Christmas Trees", otherwise known as the Lowe Family Lights. This entry featured over 52,000 lights and 4 singing Christmas trees with faces that the owner constructed out of PVC pipe and rebar. The owner also collaborated with his neighbor and tied both yard decorations into the computer-programmed light and music show. An FM transmitter on 90.3 MHz featured Christmas songs sung by "Straight No Chaser", a men's acapella group, and others.

Tacky Tinsel Tour Net 2017 Continued



"Do Re Mi Singing Christmas Trees"

Best Holiday Display

Entry Four

All entries were excellent! Net check-ins voted on the and the winner was "Do Re Mi Singing Christmas Trees".

Receiving Honorable Mention on the Tacky Tinsel Tour was the striking residence at 125 Phelps Farm Road in Fuquay-Varina, owned by Kevin and Victoria Williams, K4MC and N4XDR, respectively. This display was described by Al Crawford WA4TCJ.

Tacky Tinsel Tour Net 2017 Continued



Williams house in F-V

Entry Five

Honorable Mention

Tacky Tinsel Tour Net 2017 Continued

RARS President-Elect Carl Davis W8WZ contacted Santa Claus at the North Pole and provided the following traffic for the TTT Net:

“TO:

Amateur Radio Operators

North Carolina Raleigh Area

Break

Santa and his team of elf monitors have been monitoring amateur transmissions from the Research Triangle area using their 400 element Log Periodic array for all frequencies DC to Daylight over the past 12 months. The North Pole monitoring station is pleased to report that many good operating practices have been observed. Specifically: Long-time hams have made newcomers feel welcome on the repeaters and provided helpful technical assistance to those in need. The help given to fellow hams on the Saturday night tech net has made Santa especially happy, as have the emergency preparedness, SKYWARN, and traffic nets that have been monitored. Many Raleigh area hams were observed performing public service activities, offering helpful SKYWARN reports to the National Weather Service and accurately passing formal message traffic. Furthermore, elf monitors reported good conduct from Raleigh area hams on HF during the many contests this year, including the North Carolina QSO Party, Field Day, and Special Event activities. Santa is very pleased with the hams who have volunteered to serve as Elmers, teachers, and volunteer examiners; hold field appointments; serve as RARSfest volunteers; and those who attend and participate in club meetings and functions. Hams who have been operating as described above should be happy to learn that this year Santa’s sleigh is loaded with Icom 7610s, Elecraft K-line stations, ACOM solid state kilowatt amplifiers, Palstar tuners, SteppIR antennas, and Heil microphones. Additionally, all CW operators will receive their choice of a Bengali sculpture iambic paddle, a vibroplex deluxe bug with patented jeweled movement, or a Viz-Key vertical bug hand-crafted of solid brass, right here in the United States by precision American craftsmen. Santa further reports that his elves have located a large supply of New Old Stock Collins S-line stations, and hams who appreci-

Tacky Tinsel Tour Net 2017 Continued

ate hollow-state technology should clear space on their operating desks no later than the evening of 24 December to receive delivery of said radios.

Unfortunately, Santa does report that a small number of hams were observed kerchunking repeaters, quick keying during QSOs preventing other stations from breaking into the conversation, running more power than required to communicate, tuning up on the air instead of into a dummy load, transmitting with a chirp or key clicks, not yielding to breaking stations, or, most egregiously, running some new-fangled digital mode rough-shod right on top of long-suffering CW operators trying to run a traffic net on a frequency they have used for that purpose since WW2 ended! These hams should expect to have the coax in their antenna systems replaced with RG58 coax that was stored in a swamp near Lumberton during Hurricane Matthew, and they should know that Santa's elves are preparing to replace all the capacitors in their VFOs with black beauties when Santa and his elves visit their shacks on Christmas morning. Additionally, Santa has a collection of 60-year-old dried-up electrolytic capacitors that he will use to replace the filter caps in these ham's high voltage supplies if they do not change their ways. Some hams who have been particularly naughty may find their Flex Radios replaced with SWAN 350s – with soft finals.

Finally, Santa reports that he will continue to monitor transmissions from our area while he is aeronautical mobile on Christmas Eve from the Elecraft K2 and Tar Heel mobile antenna on his sleigh. So all hams are encouraged to be nice and not naughty between now and Christmas day.

73, Merry Christmas ho ho ho. Break

Carl Davis, W8WZ"

It's gratifying to know that Santa has observed so much good operating behavior in the Triangle area!!

Thanks to my co-hosts, TTT correspondents, Carl W8WZ, and all net check-ins for making this holiday net one of our best ever!

Minutes

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS Members Meeting

December 12, 2017

In Attendance

The monthly membership meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society met at the Ridge Road Baptist Church in Raleigh. The meeting was called to order by President Dennis, NC4DK, at 7:31pm.

The pledge of Allegiance was recited

There were 37 Members and 2 Visitors present, which constituted a quorum.

Visitors were Kim Young and Shelia Dupree (KE4CDS)

Dennis spoke about how it was the club members working behind the scenes that help make the club run so efficiently and successfully and thanked everyone for allowing him to lead us the last two years.

Approval of Minutes

A quorum being present, a motion to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting, as published in the Exciter, was made, seconded, and approved.

Continuing Announcements

The RARS dinner takes place monthly on the first Tuesday (next: January 2nd) at 6:30p.m. at the Golden Corral at 6129 Glenwood Ave.

The RARS board meeting has been cancelled for the month of December

The after-meeting gathering is also cancelled due to the potluck dinner presented at this month's meeting.

A new ham/Elmer's meeting with new hams, and anyone interested, takes place before each membership meeting at 6pm at the Ridge Road church.

Vice President Report-Tom N4TL

Tom was present but not called upon

Treasurer's Report-Greg KE4PAX

Greg was present and submitted a treasure's report. There are currently 363 members this month. Any-one desiring additional treasury information may contact Greg for details.

Secretary's Report-Bob NC1X

Bob was not present, he turned his information over to the new secretary, Tara (W4TSW) and no report was given.

Board and Committee Reports

Public Service-John K3RHJ: No Report given due to being in the off season. They will pick back up in the spring and John thanked everyone who had volunteered their time this year.

Education Director-Carl W8WZ: Reminded the members to watch the Exciter for upcoming classes in the spring. He took the opportunity to announce that the online technician video would be coming online soon for the students to take advantage of. He thanked Tara (W4TSW) for her time and effort on the project and stated it would be coming soon after the first of the year.

New Ham/Elmer Meeting-Tad KA2DEW: They had 8 people come in today and 4 came in to build TNC kits. With the help of the Elmers the 4 new hams were able to find the confidence to solder 80 pins on the circuit boards. He invited all members to attend, not just the new hams, to try new things.

Field Day Chair-Marty W4MY: Marty announced that there was nothing going on with Field Day, as of yet, but that we would be returning to the same location as 2017. Planning will begin in January.

NC QSO Party Chair-Marty W4MY: Marty thanked and welcomed the committee members, that were attending the meeting, and thanked them for their service. He is looking for a new committee, due to Ann being in her last year, and one with Wordpress experience would be a plus.

Net Manager-Mary KG4OQA: Not present, Virginia (NC4VA) gave a report, due to her taking over in January. The nets are going well and there will be a new net control on Monday nights with Bob Brown (N4GED). On Wednesday the 20th they will have the Tacky Tinsel net where they will judge vari-

Minutes continued from the previous page

ous light displays in the greater Raleigh area with a possible visit from Santa and if you check in there will be a QSO card.

Public Information Officer-Charles KM4AMT: not present, no report given

Immediate Past President-Murray K4MHM: Not called on, no report given

Director-at-large-Joanne AA3N: Not called on, no report given.

Director-at-large-Raymond NC4OO: Not present, no report given

Director-at-large-Marty W4MY: Not called on, no report given

Scouting Coordinator-Charles KM4AMT: Not present, no report given.

FM Repeater Chair-Karl W4CHX: Not present, no report given

Exciter Chair-Tom N4TL: Not called on, no report given

Food Service Chair-Bill AK4BL: Not called on, no report given

ARRL Liaison-Chuck K4HF: Not called on, no report given

ARRL NC Section Manager-Karl W4CHX: Not present, no report given

Webmaster-Hank K4HM: Not present, no report given

Director-at-large-Marty W4MY Not called on, no report given

RARSFEST Chair-Tara W4TSW: Not called on, no report given.

W4DW/W4RNC TRUSTEE: Not present, no report given

Door Prizes

Door prizes were won by Robert (W4MBD), Kenneth (KI4OTO), Greg (KE4PAX), Greg, (WD4GES), Virginia (NC4VA), Glen (WA2CYM), Marty (W4MY), Betty (KE4NGM), Michael (KN4CBZ), Dick (KD4ISC),

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Chuck (K4HF) introduced and inducted the new RARS Board members and thanked the ones that were leaving the Board.

Additional Business/Comments/Announcements

None

Next Meeting

01/09/2017, 2011 Ridge Road at 7pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm

Meeting Minutes taken and Submitted by Tara Goodwin W4TSW

Roanoke Division Christmas Newsletter and Events Calendar!

To All,

With this newsletter, we include a Roanoke Division Events Calendar, including already scheduled Hamfests, Conventions and Operating Events for 2018. A direct link is here:

<http://arrrl-roanoke.com/Roanoke%20Xmas%202017.pdf>

Alternatively, go to www.arrrl-roanoke.com and click on the “HOLIDAY GREETINGS!” link in the last paragraph.

Feel free to print this out and keep handy for 2018. Please support our QSO parties, Conventions and Hamfests.

We wish all a very Merry Christmas and Holiday season from our families to yours! Best in 2018!

'73,

Jim N2ZZ

Roanoke Division Director

Bill N2COP

Roanoke Division Vice Director

This is a little late. I included it because it has a good list of Roanoke Division Events for 2018.

73 Tom N4TL

46th Annual RARSfest
ARRL NC State Convention
March 31, 2018 at NC State Fairgrounds

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society annual RARSfest will be the host site for the 2018 ARRL North Carolina State Convention, located in the 100,000 sq. ft. Jim Graham Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd. from 8:00 A.M till 3:00 P.M on March 31st. (Easter Saturday).

RARSfest is an all indoor event with attendance typically between 1600 and 2000 featuring 40 - 50 commercial booths, several hundred flea market tables (last year all but 13 flea market tables were sold!) and a restaurant. Expected activities include Hands-on Construction Projects, Walk-In License Exams, Door Prizes, Forums, ARRL Division, Local and HQ Staff, QSL Checking, a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) Station, and an indoor Fox Hunt. And don't forget the famous Friday evening complementary dinner for our vendors from 7-8 PM.

After the 2017 RARSfest we asked for your feedback about the Hamfest. We thank all of you who provided suggestions. The RARSfest staff has worked on a number of changes for the 2018 event based on your suggestions. We encourage you to look over our brand new RARSfest website for more information. You can now also find us on Face Book and on Twitter.

Pre-registration for RARSfest begins on January 1st 2018. You will be able to purchase admission tickets online for \$8.00 and tables for \$18.00 until one week before the Hamfest. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00 and tables will be available for \$20.00 on a first-come basis.

Setup times will be Friday from noon until 9 PM and Saturday morning from 6:00 - 8:00 AM. All vehicles are required to be out of the building before we can open to the public. All vehicles will need exit the building by 7:30 on Saturday morning.

Please keep an eye on the RARSfest website for updated information as it becomes available at <http://rarsfest.org>

To all who attended the 2017 RARSfest, RARS thanks you for your support. Attendees reported that the vendor/dealer Welcome Dinner on Friday night was excellent as always. And we hope you will find the changes for 2018 make the upcoming event better than ever.

RARS Classifieds

Copied from www.rars.org/classifieds.php

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.

TEN-TEC STATION

Posted December 30th, 2017 by: N4IZE

Contact: thoswan@att.net

Ten-Tec Omni model 546 transceiver, 243 Remote VFO (pointer does not move), 255 Power supply with speaker, Sure #444 microphone. All units work & fully functional. Non-Smoking and no pet environment. Acquired when a new ham in 1983 used. I am the second owner. For sale as a set. Have all manuals. Operates on 1.8 – 29.5 and all WARC bands. Factory checked in 1992. Factory Set ssb generator freqs. Rewired 2.4 and 1.8 Mhz. filter. No blemishes or scratches to the units. No added crystals other than what the unit has. \$400.00 OBO. Buyer pays for shipping and insurance. No return. Cash, cashier's check. USPS MO. Unit will ship when monies clear. Unit may be viewed/tested by appointment only. Photos by request.

IC-7300 & mic

Posted December 8th, 2017 by: K4RLC

Contact: k4rlcc@hotmail.com

ICOM IC-7300 HF all band, all mode 100 watt transceiver with touch screen and real time spectrum scope. Lightly used (non smoker, never out of the shack). ICOM SM-30 microphone included. Great beginner's rig. \$950.

<http://icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/hf/7300/>

Icom IC 718 HF Transceiver

Posted December 6th, 2017 by: N4GEB

Contact: brownr@mail.com

Selling the rig for a friend who is getting out of the hobby :(

The rig is in like new condition, probably used less than 20 hours. Includes the Icom mic and manual. I have checked it out and it is working fine on transmit and receive. Asking \$400

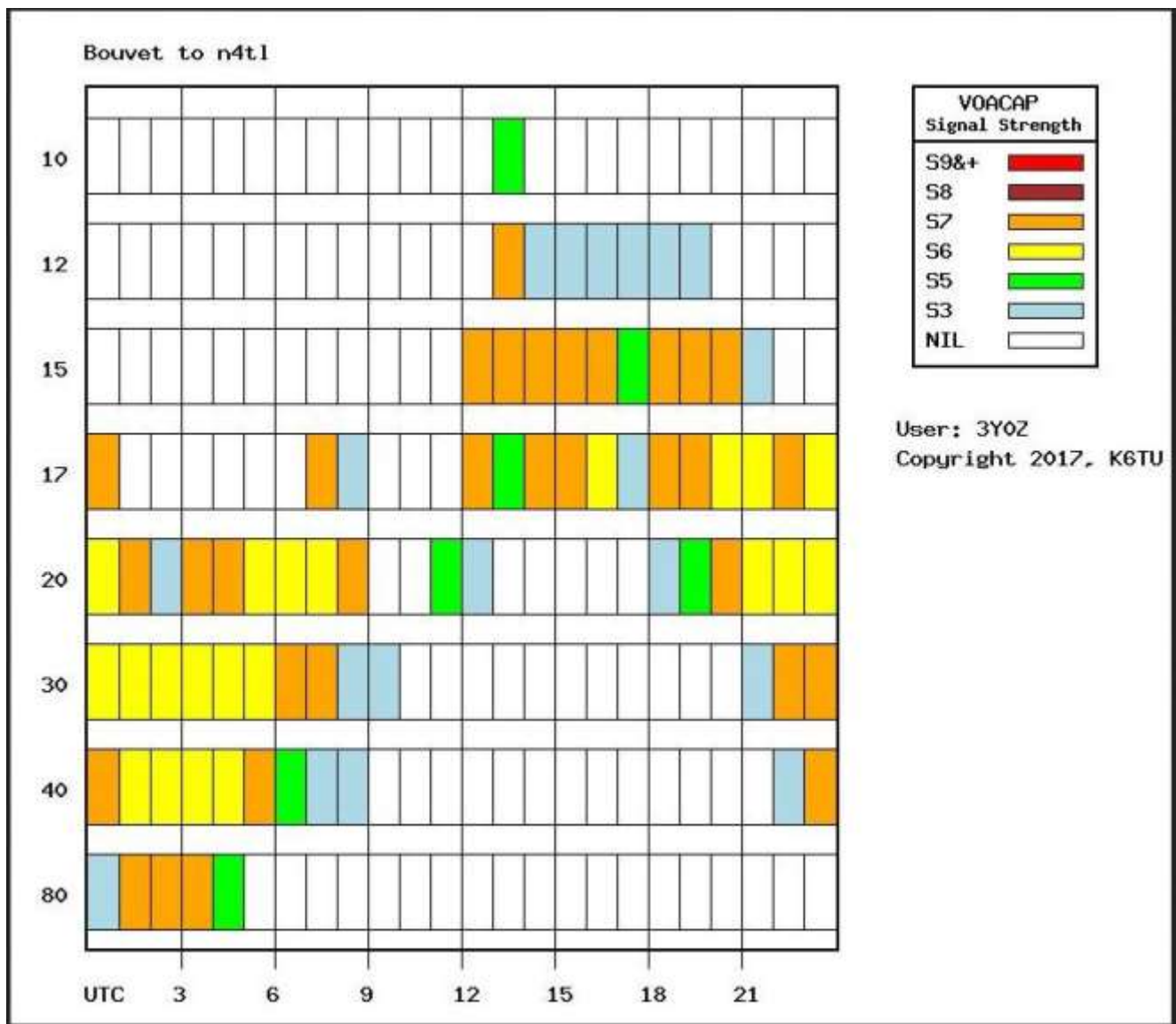
Bob

Bouvet DXpedition

Bouvet Island will be on the air soon. It's the number two most needed entity for DX.

The group mounting the [3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition](http://www.bouvetdx.org/) reports that it's sorting through the myriad of details necessary to make a DXpedition to the second most-wanted DXCC entity a reality. Plans call for 3Y0Z to be on the air in late January and early February.

<http://www.bouvetdx.org/>



Click on the graphic above to go to the K6TU website

World Radiosport Team Championship 2018

Two local Hams will be attending the World Radiosport Team Championship in 2018. Will, AA4NC as a referee and Nate, N4YDU as a participant.



World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 (WRTC 2018) has named [65 referees](#) (63 on site and 2 alternates). These individuals will be monitoring the two-

person competing teams during the competition July 14-15 in Germany. A referee will be at each station site to verify compliance with the rules and make decisions on any rule questions competitors may have. "The referees

must be top-level testers, because they must simultaneously listen to the audio from both operators for the entire 24 hours of the WRTC 2018 competition," WRTC 2018 said in making the announcement. Managing the referee application and verification process was Ulf Ehrlich, DL5AXX. More than 130 applied, and the selection process considered many factors, including geographical area, language skills, and SO2R ability. The Judging Committee of WRTC 2018, which Ehrlich heads, made the final choices.

SO2R is single operator two radios.

Operating Straight Key Night 2018

Carl, W8WZ

I was speaking with Virginia, NC4VA on the 146.64 repeater on New Year's Day and she suggested that I share an article about operating SKN including pictures of the keys I used for the Exciter. I apologize for writing such a long article, but I did not have time to write a short one.

Every New Year's Eve Eastern Time (New Year Day Zulu) the ARRL hosts an operating event known as Straight Key Night or SKN. The objective is to use CW sent with a straight key and to have QSOs with other people doing the same thing. Many hams also take advantage of the opportunity to fire up their old tube or novice rigs and use them that day. Because everyone is using a straight key, speeds tend to be slower than on a normal day, encouraging those who are rusty or new to join in the fun. Participants submit their vote for best fist and most interesting QSO to the ARRL who publishes the results in QST.

Operating SKN is my favorite way to welcome in the New Year. I avoid being on the roads on New Year's Eve and I'm inside where the shack is kept warm with the glow of vacuum tubes.

This year the First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) also sponsored an operating event during the same timeframe called FOC Bug Day which encourages the use of semi-automatic bug keys. I love bugs and straight keys, so I am happy to use both but wish FOC had chosen a totally separate day so I did not have to pick between the two options during the same timeframe.

Because I wanted to submit a Bug Day log to FOC this year I made a couple Bug QSOs using a Blue Racer. Mostly, I used the bug when answering the CQ of another person using a bug. It was obvious by the "banana boat swing" timing of some of the operators that bugs were not their daily CW tools. So, when I heard that type of fist, I would answer with a bug. Otherwise, I rotated through a few different straight keys during the 24 hours of the event.

Most of my operating was done on 40 meters as that is where I normally operate. I did make some contacts on 80 as well. The bands were in great shape and full of CW signals even up into the bottom end of the phone band on 40 (most likely guys working the old novice sub bands with the crystals they had from the days when those frequencies were for novice CW use). In fact, 40 CW was so crowded at the start of the event that listening on my Drake TR4 without any filtering was overwhelming and I had to switch to a receiver with narrow filtering.

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By Monday morning however things had thinned out and I could use the TR4 without problem.

Like most CW operators, I have a collection



of keys. In fact, my love of keys keeps me from being as good a CW operator as I might otherwise be. I always have a straight key, a bug and a paddle connected to my rig and I switch between them. I tend to keep my bugs set at 25 WPM and use them mostly on traffic nets and when rag chewing. If the code speed is 25 WPM I use the bug, but adjusting them is so time consuming that I just switch keys for other speeds. I use the straight key for slow speed and use my paddles for higher speed operating for both rag chews and working DX. It is easy to adjust the speed of a paddle so with the turn of a knob on the keyer I can adjust my speed from 20-35 WPM for rag chews or working DX with either of those keys, making them the most versatile and therefore most commonly used. I have a single lever Kent paddle and a dual lever iambic K8RA paddle. I do not use the K8RA's iambic function. Instead, I treat it just like a single lever paddle, and



key it with an arm rolling motion instead of a finger moving motion which is similar to the action I use on bugs. In short, I don't squeeze the key, I just use it for its automatic dits and dots. This constant switching of keys interferes with my muscle memory and I often make mistakes when I first switch to the paddle from the bug or vice versa. This is the price I pay for liking too many keys.

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On SKN however, the paddles don't get used at all. It is all mechanical and I rotate through the arsenal of straight keys starting with a key I restored that is more than 100 years old and was designed to work with a small rotary spark gap transmitter. This key lacks a shorting bar, indicating it was designed

for wireless as opposed to landline service and it has removable 3/8" contacts. In spark service key contacts would wear out so contacts were made to be replaced. The key is very well made but lacks any manufacturer's marks so I can't tell what company produced it. I can estimate the date only because of when spark transmitters were in service.

This is the key I usually use to check into slow speed CW nets and is the key I used for my first 2018 SKN contact with my friend Don N0SU in Bryson City, NC by checking into the Carolinas Net CW traffic net with my straight key at 0000Z when SKN officially began.



After that contact I moved into the future about 30 years and connected my late grandfather's J38 to the transmitter. The J38 is a well-known key manufactured by several different companies for use by the US Army Signal Corps. The J38 has a shorting bar like

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landline keys because it was designed to be hooked into a sounder circuit in code training classes. Soldiers were trained on these keys and then kept the key they were issued in training with them for later use on active duty.



During the years between WW I and the Korean War the US Army Signal Corps designated many of their Morse keys with a "J" prefix followed by a number. The known numbers range from J-1 to J-51. The J38 is the most popular of these keys in amateur service today followed by the J37 which is a key that was designed to be attached to a leg strap and used in some airplanes, tanks and automobiles. The J36 was a bug similar to the Vibroplex Champion. More information about the J38 can be found at <http://k6ix.net/J38Keys.html>

My grandfather was issued this particular J38 when he was taught the International Morse code by the US Army Signal Corps at Camp Crowder, Missouri in 1941. After that training he left the Signal Corps and entered the Air Corps where he worked on the first application of airborne RADAR in the Northrop P61 Black Widow. After the war he put the key in a shed where it stayed until about 4 years ago when my dad found it while cleaning out the property to prepare it for sale and gave it to me. Now it gets regular use, especially on SKN.

I used this key most of the rest of SKN but did want to rotate through a few other keys including a key that is made on a 3D printer by a 14 year old ham in Texas KC5ILR who sells them on

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ebay. Here it is pictured next to the J38. Old meets new.

After WW2 Japan began mass producing various products including Morse code keys. They made a “cheap” brass plated Morse code key with a shorting bar which was marketed by the Ameco company as a “JJ38”, doubtless trying to play off the good image of the J38. This key was known for using ball bearings in the trunnions and due to the low cost of this key many Novice stations used it as a first key. Here are two examples of this key.

Why would a key made for radio telegraph have a shorting bar? Well, in the days before Push to Talk (PTT) it was helpful to be able to key a transmitter by closing a shorting bar on the key then talking into the microphone when operating AM. It can also be helpful to use it to transmit a carrier when tuning up.

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And finally, I closed out SKN by using my favorite straight key, the Johnson Speed-X



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The Speed-X is my favorite key because of its buttery smooth action and soft response. This key was made by Les Logan and was first advertised for sale in the January 1937 edition of QST. It was then made by E.F. Johnson and then by the Wm. M. Nye company who kept making them until August 2017, just 5 months ago. Replacement parts for this and other straight keys can still be ordered from their webpage. <http://www.morseexpress.com/nye/>

Now that SKN is over I will go back to paddles and bugs for most of my operating, but with Novice Rig Roundup fast approaching Starting at 0000Z on March 3, 2018 and ending at 2359Z on March 11, 2018 the straight key's will not stay packed away for long.



Bargain from the 2015 RARSfest

There will be many more at the 2018 RARSfest

www.rars.org